

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 4, 2014  
7:30 PM**

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The regularly scheduled Council meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Mayor Kathie deNobriga. Present were Mayor deNobriga, Council Members Mike Stuckey, George Chidi, Lynn Ehrlicher and Erika Brown. Also present Chief Sarai Green and City Administrator Valerie Caldwell.

**COMMUNICATION**

Mayor deNobriga stated that Elsie Porter met with the Executive Director and the Marketing Director of DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau the end of January and they had suggestion for activities and will be doing promotions for Lake Fest. Their Group Sales and Group Services Manager came to Pine Lake and was provided a tour of the rental facilities by Ms. Porter.

**COMMENTS**

Added to the agenda:

- Away With Geese Deterrents Expenditure
- Family Dollar Tree Cutting and the illegal removal of trees at site
- The Cut Site and Tree Ordinance will be reviewed at the February 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

The Mayor stated that Melanie Hammet met with Family Dollar regarding the removal of specific trees that they were aware of and that a report will be presented soon.

Mayor deNobriga stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Megan Pulsts and Council Member Erika Brown will be the new signatories for all city bank accounts to replace former Council Members Melanie Hammet and Cindy Diamond.

**BEACH HOUSE RENOVATION UPDATE**

The Mayor appointed Council Member Brown as the liaison for the Paul Kent Construction beach house project. There was a meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to receive the hand off of this assignment from former Council member Carr. Brown updated that the project is in the final phase and stated that great progress is being made on the project and is on target for completion. Interior and exterior paint bids were presented and PK construction was the low bidder for the painting the beach house. The award of bid was placed on the February 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting agenda.

**DISCUSSION OF PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mayor deNobriga did the first reading of the Ordinance: Repeal of Architectural Review Board; Adoption of 2014 Planning and Review Board Ordinance. The Ordinance will have changes that needs to addressed and forwarded to the City Attorney to review and present to council for approval. The second read was placed on the February 10<sup>th</sup> Agenda. Also discussed was streamlining the permits process.

## **GEESE DETERRENT DISCUSSION**

Mayor deNobriga recapped the discussion of geese deterrents from the October 14, 2013 meeting for purchasing low level lights from Away with Geese.com to reduce the population of the Canadian Geese. The lake has been mapped out for positioning the lights. The mayor recommended purchasing seven units at \$350.00 each with a six month guarantee. After much discussion and for further research; no decision made for the purchase of this item and it was placed on the February 10<sup>th</sup> city council meeting agenda.

## **SCHEDULING OF COUNCIL RETREAT TO INTEGRATE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION INTO CITY WORK PLAN & DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW UP ON LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

The mayor stated that the city has several planning documents that need to be integrated and implemented into the city work plan. The ARC 2040 Standards cover five arenas and the comprehensive plan for 2017 need to be rewritten. The 2040 recommendations has to be worked on with the results of the leadership retreat this past August. Also included will be the ARC review of the commercial codes and the recommendations for changes to support commercial development. All of this will need to be revisited and moved forward. Mayor proposed a Tuesday council workshop around these issues.

Mayor deNobriga said the first step is to get familiar with the documents and to have internal discussion. The March work session will consist of internal preparation and conversation. The Mayor recommended that the April council meeting be a working session to do implementation planning. She stated that the city is not ready to schedule the April meeting but to get the study groups together. Each council was given a topic: Chidi was assigned to Housing & Community Development; Echlicher to Community & Population; Mayor Pro-Tem Pulsts to Energy & the Environment; Brown was assigned to Economic Development and Stuckey was given Transportation. A date will be scheduled later to meet with ARC.

Mayor stated that at the last leadership retreat it was observed by all that the Police Department shows up in all quadrants. ARC suggested a community wide meeting relating to policing. The leadership retreat will involve staff and will be scheduled for end of February or beginning of March. The comp plan and retreat will be reviewed at the same time and it can be revised at any time.

## **REPORT BY COUNCIL MEMBER CHIDI REAGARDING DISCUSSION WITH ROCKBRIDGE ROAD BUSINESS OWNERS.**

Council Member Chidi talked with property owners about annexation on Rockbridge Road. Many of the business owners are in favor; however the some of the property owners are looking for financial justification. One of the concerned area is the ability of the Police to police the area. Property owner of the strip plaza stated they are having financial and crime problems and a high vacancy rate. The business owners are amenable to the idea of annexation; however, they will need to be sold on policing. A one to three year tax abatement was recommended and will to go before the city attorney for review. Caldwell recommended waiting on the new tax digest before deciding. Chidi said that there is one residential property and one county owned property in this re-annexation plan. Mayor said that this may be a problem with the county if it is not part of the corridor.

Mayor deNobriga stated that the priority is to square off the boundaries and for re-annexation the city does not need county approval. The city can do the 60% method with signatures. One of the complaints the business owners is that DeKalb County Police has not been filing reports. Chidi will secure public records relating to this and specific situations and report back.

#### **DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CHIDI ON SIGNAGE ON SPRING STREET**

There are two stop signs on Spring Street up the incline and it was recommended that they be changed to yield signs. Brown said that she would like to have resident feedback. Chief Green said that there has not been any accidents in two or three years but leaves and water may cause accidents. She stated that the city could be held liable for accidents due to the current signage. Spring and Spruce Streets will need an evaluation as it relates to the signage and any changes.

#### **COMMENTS**

Mayor stated that position of Facility Manager first read will be placed on the February 10<sup>th</sup> agenda. Bitsy Pitts is currently filling in but is not a long term relationship.

The Town Hall meeting had good participation and the mayor asks for feedback of how the city performed during the weather emergency. The citizens were pleased with the response of public works. However suggest that for the inclement weather for citizens not to park on the streets if possible especially Magnolia and Spruce Streets.

Council Member Brown spoke on behalf of Citizen Tommy Conlin who was not present regarding 24 hour policing and facilities manager that the police must deliver service and the facilities manager generate revenue.

The Chief is currently proactive and making a list of the priority streets. She also stated that the docking station is in the crown Victoria and needs the modem installed. Chief also said that she is looking at means for less expenses for the police department and currently a recording pen is used by the officers and that body cameras are something the police could utilize. The recording from the pen is downloaded to a USB in the event information is needed for court. Mayor stated that it will be a benefit to have cameras on the officers.

Missye Varner passed out the end of year and January report for administration. She also stated that Universal Pictures/Universal Studios are interested in filming a scene at the lake for upcoming movie "Term Life" featuring Vince Vaughn and that consideration has been given and are waiting for update if Pine Lake is chosen by the director and will pass to Mayor and council.

Brown asked about the website having updated information and photos of mayor and council. The Mayor advised that she can send photos and information to Greg Creech to place on the city's website. Chidi asked about the arrest on Saturday while he was at the pancake breakfast. It was addressed by Mayor that when they ran the tag the driver was on a watch list.

Raoul Martinez, Public Works Supervisor gave report that they are cutting on the western wetlands. The Mayor suggested that he speak with Melanie Hammett as what can and can't be cut. Martinez said that

there still a few streets needing leaf cleaning. He also stated that the tree committee is interested in leaf recycling. Brown asked about the caution tape on the tree at the lake. Martinez informed her that the tree is leaning towards the lake and that they will cut it up once the tree falls.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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Missye Varner  
Administrative Assistant

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